

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W  
-----048089 260306Z /23

R 251307Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1868  
INFO RUEHTN /AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN 1670  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF  
SUBJECT: DEATHS IN CUSTODY: EASTERN CAPE SHAKE-UP,  
TWO MORE DEATHS

REF: PRETORIA 3944

1. SUMMARY: SAG HAS ROTATED EASTERN CAPE SECURITY  
PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN JULY DEATH OF TABALAZA. OPPOSITION  
PRESS AND LEADERS CONTINUE CALL FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY  
AND/OR RESIGNATION OF KRUGER. MEANWHILE, TWO MORE BRUTAL  
DEATHS IN CUSTODY HAVE BEEN REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER MINISTER OF JUSTICE JIMMY KRUGER RECEIVED A  
REPORT BY AN UNNAMED MAJOR-GENERAL ON THE JULY 10 DEATH  
IN CUSTODY OF LUNGILE TABALAZA, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
GENERAL MIKE GELDENHUYS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING "PURELY  
ADMINISTRATIVE" CHANGES IN THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF  
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THE SECURITY POLICE: THE TRANSFER OF COMMANDING OFFICER  
COLONEL P.J. GOSSEN TO ANOTHER POST EFFECTIVE  
AUGUST 1; THE TRANSFER OF MAJOR P.R. DE JONGH FROM  
THE SECURITY POLICE TO THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVI-  
SION (CID) IN A DIFFERENT AREA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1;  
THE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF SERGEANT P.J. NEL FROM THE  
SECURITY POLICE TO CID; AND THE CREATION OF A NEW

SENIOR POSITION WITHIN THE POLICE INSPECTORIATE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN PRETORIA HOLDING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY MATTERS IN SOUTH AFRICA. GELDENHUYS SAID THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ON KRUGER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTED THAT "IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THE REPORT (ON TABALAZA) THAT STRICT POLICE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE SAFETY OF DETAINEES MAY NOT IN THIS CASE HAVE BEEN STRICTLY ADHERED TO."

3. REACTION TO EASTERN CAPE SHAKE-UP FROM POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESS WAS SWIFT AND MIXED. PFP SPOKESPERSONS CALLED FOR KRUGER'S RESIGNATION, QUIERIED WHETHER THE MERE TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL WAS "APPROPRIATE ACTION" AND CALLED FOR A FULL SCALE INQUIRY INTO THE FUNCTIONING AND ADMINISTRATION OF SECURITY LAWS. PFP SPOKESPERSON FOR JUSTICE HELEN SUZMAN ALSO CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO NON-SECURITY DEATHS IN CUSTODY. PRESS REACTION WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO GELDENHUYS' ANNOUNCEMENT WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF BLACK ORIENTATED POST WHICH CARRIED THE FOLLOWING IN ITS JULY 23 EDITORIAL: "WE REMAIN UNIMPRESSED. ...AS A MEANS OF REASSURING US, THIS ACTION SIMPLY LEAVES US STONE COLD. WHAT IS NEEDED HERE IS NOT POLICE OFFICERS BEING JUGGLED AROUND THE COUNTRY, BUT A REAL JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. EVEN BETTER STILL, WE NEED TO SCRAP THE LAWS THAT VIOLATE THE FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE AND HAVE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECT OF THEM BEING LITERALLY SPIRITED AWAY FROM SOCIETY WITH NO REAL PUBLIC MONITORING SYSTEM AS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE PEOPLE IN DETENTION." THE RAND DAILY MAIL, SUNDAY TIMES, SUNDAY EXPRESS, SUNDAY TRIBUNE, AND RAPPORT ALSO CALLED FOR AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO DETENTION PRACTICES.

4. MEANWHILE, LUNGILE TABALAZA WAS BURIED ON JULY 22 IN PORT ELIZABETH. REPORTLY MORE THAN 5,000 BLACK MORUNERS ATTENDED THE FUNERAL; POLICE MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE AND THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE TABALAZA FAMILY, JOHANNESBURG PATHOLOGIST DR. JOHATHAN GLUCKMAN PERFORMED A SECOND POST MORTUM ON TABALAZA. GLUCKMAN, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY RETAINED BY THE BIKO FAMILY, REFUSED TO DISCLOSE HIS FINDINGS UNTIL THE INQUEST PROCEEDINGS BEGIN.

5. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, TEN POLICEMENT HAVE BEEN INDENTIFIED IN CONNECTION WITH TWO OTHER DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY. IN NATAL, THREE HLUHLUWE POLICEMENT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF PAULOS NGOLOSI NCANE (22) HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

(NCANE DIED THE DAY AFTER HE APPEARED IN AN EMPANGENI COURT CHARGED WITH THEFT. HE HAD PLEADED GUILTY AND TOLD PRESIDING MAGISTRATE GOOSEN THAT HE HAD BEEN BEATN BY THE POLICE IN HIS CELL. MAGISTRATE GOOSEN WAS SO ALARMED AT NCANE'S PHYSICAL STATE THAT HE ORDERED AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE DISTRICT SURGEON SAID THAT NCANE "HAD HAD THE DAYLIGHTS BEATEN OUT OF HIM."

6. IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE, SIX POLICEMENT AND TWO CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH MURDER AND A SEVENTH POLICEMAN WITH ASSAULT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH IN CUSTODY OF A BLACK WELKOM SECURITY GUARD, JANKIE MAHLOMOLA MATOBAKO (25) WHO DIED IN MARCH, EIGHT DAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING. ACCORDING TO PRESS, OFFICIAL RECORD OF MATOBAKO'S INJURIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: "PRIVATE PARTS SWOLLEN, BOTH FEET SWOLLEN, 11 WEALS ON THE FRONT OF HIS BODY ABOVE THE NAVEL, THREE GRAZES OVER THE LOWER RIB CAGE, ABOUT 20 WEALS OVER THE KIDNEY AREA AND ABOUT FOUR GRAZES THAT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE POINT OF THE INSTRUMENT THAT CAUSED THE WEALS," PLUS SIMILAR INJURIES TO MOUTH, EYES, HAND AND LEGS.

7. COMMENT: ALRADY BADLY STUNG BY THE BIKO AFFAIR, OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE TABALAZA AND THE OTHER DEATHS HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY CAUTIOUS AND CIRCUMSPECT. WITH THREE CASES OF POLICE BRUTALITY BEFORE THE PUBLIC EYE, SAG PRESUMABLY HOPES TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY FROM ABROAD, BY TRANSFERRING SOME PERSONNEL AND CHARGING OTHERS. EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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